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October 5, 2001

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications & Energy
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
One South Station, Second Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: D.T.E. 98-57 (Phase IV) / Assented-To Request for Extension of Procedural Schedule

Dear Ms. Cottrell:

By this letter Verizon Massachusetts ("Verizon MA"), respectfully requests that the Department extend the current procedural schedule in the above-referenced proceeding for all parties to Wednesday, November 7, 2001. Verizon MA is seeking this extension due to the fact that it has recently reached an agreement in principal with Covad and Sprint that addresses the remaining disputed issues in this proceeding and desires additional time to see if a negotiated resolution can be achieved through settlement discussions with the remaining carriers who have raised issues in this proceeding regarding Verizon MA's proposed audit provisions.

AT&T Communications of New England, Inc., Covad Communications Company, Sprint Communications Company, L.P., and WorldCom, Inc. have all indicated their interest in pursuing such negotiations and have assented to this request for an extension to allow such negotiations to take place. Accordingly, Verizon MA respectfully requests that the Department enter an order postponing the hearing currently scheduled in this proceeding to November 7, 2001.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

/s/Keefe B. Clemons

Keefe B. Clemons

cc: Jesse Reyes, Esquire, Hearing Officer
Tina Chin, Esquire, Hearing Officer
Michael Isenberg, Esquire, Director-Telecommunications Division
Attached Service List